



# News Release

Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture  
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**Results** of a recent survey are contained in this release. You can also find it on our site at [www.nass.usda.gov/pa/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/pa/) and click on the Pennsylvania Publications link.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Tillage Practices Released

HARRISBURG, PA, July 1, 2010 -- USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Pennsylvania Field Office, has completed its 2010 survey of tillage practices for major field crops in the Commonwealth. The survey is funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and conducted in conjunction with NASS's annual June Agricultural Survey.

In 2010, conventional tillage was used on 22.5% of the major crop acreage in Pennsylvania, up slightly from the 22.2% recorded in 2009. No-till was practiced on 54.4 % of the major crop acreage, and other conservation tillage practices were used on the remaining 23.1%. Corn and soybeans are the two crops with the highest acreages. Conventional till was used on 22.2% of the corn acreage, no-till was practiced on 54.4 % of the acreage, and the remaining 23.3% of the corn acreage used other conservation tillage practices. In soybeans, conventional till was used on 14.9% of the acreage, no-till was practiced on 63.8% of the acreage, and the remaining 21.3% of the acreage was cultivated using other conservation tillage practices. Winter Wheat showed the biggest change, with no-till decreasing from 55.3% of the total acres planted to 41.2 % of the acres planted; however, oats showed a 9.1% increase in percent planted using no-till practices.

Pennsylvania: Tillage Practices by Crop, 2010							
Crop	Total Acres Planted	No-Till <sup>1</sup>		Other Conservation Tillage <sup>2</sup>		Conventional Till <sup>3</sup>	
		Acres	% of Total <sup>4</sup>	Acres	% of Total <sup>4</sup>	Acres	% of Total <sup>4</sup>
Corn	1,350,000	735,000	54.4	315,000	23.3	300,000	22.2
Soybeans	470,000	300,000	63.8	100,000	21.3	70,000	14.9
Barley	60,000	34,000	56.7	14,000	23.3	12,000	20.0
Winter Wheat <sup>5</sup>	170,000	70,000	41.2	45,000	26.5	55,000	32.4
Oats	110,000	35,000	31.8	25,000	22.7	50,000	45.5
<b>Total <sup>6</sup></b>	<b>2,160,000</b>	<b>1,174,000</b>	<b>54.4</b>	<b>499,000</b>	<b>23.1</b>	<b>487,000</b>	<b>22.5</b>
Alfalfa Seedings <sup>7/8</sup>	-	-	36.4	-	27.3	-	36.4
<sup>1</sup> No-Till – A procedure whereby a crop is planted directly into a seedbed not tilled since harvest of a previous crop, or the planting of a crop into sod, previous crop stubble, or a cover where only the intermediate seed zone is disturbed. <sup>2</sup> Other Conservation Tillage – Tillage practices prior to planting which result in a minimum of 30 percent ground cover or residue being retained on the surface following planting. Grass and weed control is accomplished primarily with herbicides. Includes ridge till, strip till, and mulch till. <sup>3</sup> Conventional Till – Systems where 100 percent of the surface is mixed or inverted by plowing, power tilling, or multiple disking. <sup>4</sup> Sum of no-till, other conservation tillage and conventional till percents of total may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. <sup>5</sup> Wheat seeded the previous fall for all intended purposes including grain, cover, silage, hay or any other utilization. <sup>6</sup> Total excludes Alfalfa Seedings. <sup>7</sup> New alfalfa seeded or to be seeded during 2010. <sup>8</sup> Alfalfa seeded acres will be available in January 2011.							

Pennsylvania: Tillage Practices by Crop, 2009							
Crop	Total Acres Planted	No-Till <sup>1</sup>		Other Conservation Tillage <sup>2</sup>		Conventional Till <sup>3</sup>	
		Acres	% of Total <sup>4</sup>	Acres	% of Total <sup>4</sup>	Acres	% of Total <sup>4</sup>
Corn	1,350,000	770,000	57.0	270,000	20.0	310,000	23.0
Soybeans	450,000	315,000	70.0	90,000	20.0	45,000	10.0
Barley	60,000	33,000	55.0	17,000	28.3	10,000	16.7
Winter Wheat <sup>5</sup>	190,000	105,000	55.3	48,000	25.3	37,000	19.5
Oats	110,000	25,000	22.7	26,000	23.6	59,000	53.6
<b>Total <sup>6</sup></b>	<b>2,160,000</b>	<b>1,248,000</b>	<b>57.8</b>	<b>451,000</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>461,000</b>	<b>21.3</b>
Alfalfa Seedings <sup>7</sup>	100,000	36,000	36.0	24,000	24.0	40,000	40.0
<b>Grand Total <sup>8</sup></b>	<b>2,260,000</b>	<b>1,284,000</b>	<b>56.8</b>	<b>475,000</b>	<b>21.0</b>	<b>501,000</b>	<b>22.2</b>
<sup>1</sup> No-Till – A procedure whereby a crop is planted directly into a seedbed not tilled since harvest of a previous crop, or the planting of a crop into sod, previous crop stubble, or a cover where only the intermediate seed zone is disturbed. <sup>2</sup> Other Conservation Tillage – Tillage practices prior to planting which result in a minimum of 30 percent ground cover or residue being retained on the surface following planting. Grass and weed control is accomplished primarily with herbicides. Includes ridge till, strip till, and mulch till. <sup>3</sup> Conventional Till – Systems where 100 percent of the surface is mixed or inverted by plowing, power tilling, or multiple disking. <sup>4</sup> Sum of no-till, other conservation tillage and conventional till percents of total may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. <sup>5</sup> Wheat seeded the previous fall for all intended purposes including grain, cover, silage, hay or any other utilization. <sup>6</sup> Total excludes Alfalfa Seedings. <sup>7</sup> New alfalfa seeded or to be seeded during 2009. <sup>8</sup> Includes alfalfa seedings published January 12, 2010.							